

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

4:20 p.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services was called to order by **Representative Stahl**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Representative Polidori moved to adopt the minutes of the **September 6, 2006** meeting. The motion was supported by **Representative Clack**. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Stahl laid **HB 6440** before the committee:

HB 6440	David Law	Children; protection; office of children's ombudsman; transfer to legislative council.
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TESTIMONY

Representative David Law, sponsor of HB 6440, explained his bill to the committee. Questions and discussion followed.

Jean Doss, submitted a card on behalf of Sharon Peters, representing Michigan's Children, indicating support of the bill with concerns and did not wish to speak.

Verlie Ruffin, the Children's Ombudsman and **Charlotte Smith**, Attorney for the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, testified and submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Vice-Chair Pearce assumed the chair at 6:16 p.m.

Chairman Stahl resumed the chair at 6:19 p.m.

Representative Virgil Smith, representing the 7th District, testified in opposition to the bill.

Bill Kandler, representing the Children's Law Section, State Bar, submitted a card indicating neutrality on the bill.

Representative Pearce moved to adopt the substitute **(H-1)** to **HB 6440**. The motion was supported by **Representative Sheen**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-3-1**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen,
Nays: Representatives Clack, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Pass: Representative Spade.

Representative Pearce offered the following amendment to **HB 6440**:

1. Amend page 2, line 23, by striking out all of subdivision (4).

Representative Polidori moved to adopt the amendment. The motion was supported by **Representative Vander Veen**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **9-0-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade,
Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Nays: None,
Pass: None.

Representative Vander Veen moved to report **HB 6440** with recommendation, as substitute (**H-2**).
The motion was supported by **Representative Hoogendyk**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-3-1**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen,
Nays: Representatives Clack, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Pass: Representative Spade.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Representative John Stahl, Chair
House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services
Malika Abdur-Rashid
Committee Clerk
517/373-7256
2 Hours 19 Minutes